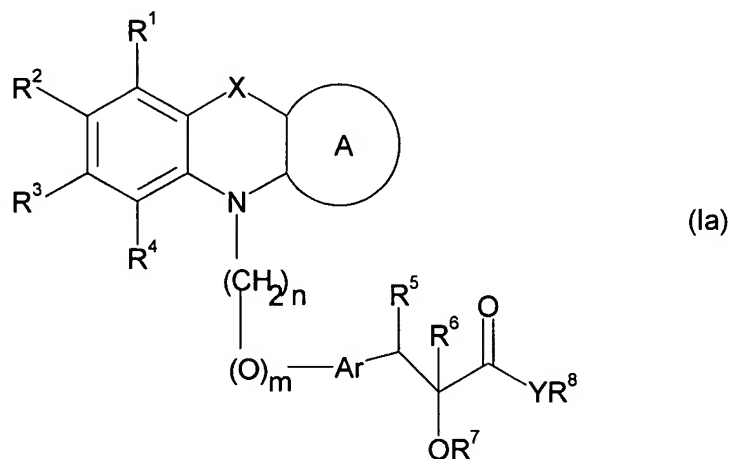


IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Please cancel claims 3-6, 8-16, 18-44, 48-52, and 56-60 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers (a marked-up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

1. (Amended) A compound of formula (Ia)



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wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ independently of each other represent hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, or C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₁₂-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylthio, thioC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, perhalomethyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

contd.
a³

or R¹ and R², R² and R³ and/or R³ and R⁴ may form a cyclic ring containing from 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl;

ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or C₁₋₇-alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxy or aryl;

X is a -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -(NR⁹)-CH₂-, -(CHR⁹)-CH=CH-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-CH₂-, -CH=(CR⁹)-, -(CO)-(CHR⁹)-, wherein R⁹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₁₂-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylthio, thioC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹³, or -SO₂R¹⁴, wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl;

Ar represents arylene or heteroarylene, optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl or aryl;

R⁵ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R⁵ forms a bond together with R⁶,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, acyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R⁶ forms a bond together with R⁵,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

contd.
a³

R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NR¹⁰, where R¹⁰ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, aryl, hydroxyC₁₋₁₂-alkyl or aralkyl groups or when Y is NR¹⁰, R⁸ and R¹⁰ may form a 5 or 6 membered nitrogen containing ring, optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl;

n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 0 to 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Not amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ independently of each other represent hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C₁₋₇-alkyl, C₄₋₇-alkenynyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano; or R¹ and R², R² and R³ and/or R³ and R⁴ may form a cyclic ring containing from 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl.

a⁴

7. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C₁₋₇-alkyl, C₄₋₇-alkenynyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or

contd.
a⁴

amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano.

a⁵

17. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar represents arylene or heteroarylene;
R⁵ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen; or R⁵ forms a bond together with R⁶,
R⁶ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen; or R⁶ forms a bond together with R⁵,
R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₇-alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C₁₋₇-alkoxyC₁₋₇-alkyl, C₁₋₇-alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups;
R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₇-alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl;
Y represents oxygen or sulphur;
n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is 1.

a⁶

45. (Amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is
3-{4-[2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
Ethyl-3-{4-[2-(10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionate,
3-{4-[2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[3-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[3-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[3-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[3-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

contd
a 6

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Propoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[2-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Propoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Propoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[3-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Methoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Propoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[2-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

contd.
A 6

2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[3-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[3-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
3-(4-(2-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
Ethyl-3-(4-(2-(dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionate,
3-(4-(2-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(2-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(2-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(1-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. The compound according to claim 1 which is

3-{4-[2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
Ethyl-3-(4-(2-(10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionate,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-oxo-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(10-methoxy-dibenzo[*b,f*]azepin-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

53. (Amended) A method for the treatment of ailments, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

54. (Amended) A method for the treatment of conditions mediated by nuclear receptors, in particular the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR), the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

55. (Amended) A method for the treatment of diabetes or obesity, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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